Demands raised by Association of AFHQ Stenographers

5106. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of demands/issues have been raised by the Association of AFHQ Stenographers; and

(b) if so, the details of letters received during the last two years and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. AFHQ Stenographers' Association have been raising various issues from time to time on service matters like career prospects, promotion, seniority etc. All the issues were examined at appropriate levels and action taken wherever feasible. The Association has been kept apprised of the position on each of the issues raised by them.

Development of modified version of MBT Arjuna

5107. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Tank Arjuna has not been found very much suited to the varied requirements of the Indian Army for operations in different terrains;

(b) if so, whether any modified version of this tank or alternative artillery guns namely Karna and Bheem have been or are being developed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. The indigenously developed state-of-the-art main battle tank 'Arjuna' is highly suitable for the Army for its role indifficult and different terrains.

(b) and (c) Does not arise, in view of answer (a) above.